

# **Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**

**September 10, 2014**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
September 10, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)  
Absent: Edinger (1)

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were nine other persons present.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner the Agenda was amended by bringing back from the table, a previous Resolution that would approve the establishment of an Accounting & Revenue Supervisor and an Accounting & Payroll Supervisor in the Department of Finance, as Item (c) under New Business, by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown, Panto, Warren, Warner (6)  
Nays: None (0)

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the Amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown (6)  
Nays: None (0)

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles, the August 27, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)  
Nays: None (0)

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT** **(Agenda Items Only)**

There were no remarks from the audience.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 29, (Ordinance 5476) Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 569, Vehicle and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which authorizes the removal of five of the six reserved Handicapped Parking Spaces located on the West side of the 400 block of Seitz Street.

Bill 30, (Ordinance 5477) Amending Section 285-42, Parking garage fees, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which establishes a \$10 fee for reactivation of a parking card if the person violates the parking agreement and their card is deactivated for the violation.

Resolution 121-2014, which approved appointments and reappointments to various Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

Resolution 122-2014, which approved a Five Year Winter Traffic Service Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation.

Resolution 123-2014, which authorized the removal of two Street lights on South Bank Street.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

## **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

There were no reports received by Council:

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would be bringing back from the table, later in the meeting, regarding approving positions in the Department of Finance.

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Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, said that Council's recommendations for CDBG funding are due on Friday, September 12, 2014.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that he would be resigning his Council's seat effective September 12, 2014.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding authorizing the City Administration to sell the former City-owned phone system, voice mail and desktop phones. He also reported that he would not be in attendance at the September 24, 2014 Council meeting because of work obligations.

Mrs. Vulcano also reported that she also would not be in attendance at the September 24, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee was absent.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto said that September 24, 2014 is the beginning of Rosh Hashanah and wanted to know if Council wished to move the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and said that the meeting would be held at St. Pauls' Lutheran Church located on the South side.

There was a short discussion on this matter and it was the consensus of Council to change the date of the meeting to Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

Mayor Panto reported that he had visited the new Parking Garage at night-time while the lights were being tested and said that the lighting was phenomenal and spoke on the results of the test, and gave an update on the construction.

Mayor Panto spoke on the Movies at the Mill and said that the after party would take place on a deck of the New Transit Center.

Mayor Panto said that he had placed the name of Steven White, onto the proposed Resolution, for appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board and spoke regarding Mr. White's background and said that with his appointment there would be West Ward representation, and spoke on the other proposed appointments and reappointments.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the need to amend the Zoning Hearing Board Ordinance to allow the appointment of an Alternate Member.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was received by Council.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

An August 22, 2014 memorandum, regarding a request to sell the City's former phone system, voice mail, and desktop phones, was received from Frank Caruso, IT Manager.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the City to sell the former City-owned phone system, voice mail, and desktop phones.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

124-2014

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would accept Mr. Warren's resignation from Council.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

125-2014

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown, the above Resolution was amended by adding that the resignation would become effective 12:00 p.m. on September 12, 2014 by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Brown, Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

The above amended Resolution was adopted on motion of Mayor Panto and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the establishment of Accounting & Revenue Supervisor and an Accounting & Payroll Supervisor in the Finance Department.

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano a Resolution that was tabled on August 27, 2014, by Mr. Edinger, which would establish the positions of Accounting & Revenue Supervisor and an Accounting & Payroll Supervisor in the Department of Finance, was brought back from the table, by the following vote.

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

126-2014

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Dr. Warner asked if there was an amendment to the Salary and Wage Resolution that went along with this Resolution.

Mr. Steckman said that they only need the above Resolution, at this time to allow them to advertise and to interview for the positions.

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

**PRESENTATION OF GIFT**

Mr. Warren thanked his wife and family for allowing him the honor to serve the City and the Citizens, thanked the City Administration, Council members, City Directors, Supervisors and employees for working with him, said that he had learned from each Council member and thanked all for their assistance.

All Council members and Mr. Steckman offered words of thanks for his service, dedication and commitment to Council and to the City, said that it had been a pleasure working with him and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

Mayor Panto presented Mr. Warren with an engraved Pewter Plate.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**(On any item)**

Pastor Philip Davis, 600 Country Club Road, spoke to Council regarding a meeting that he had with the Mayor and Mr. Brown. He congratulated Council on the City's resurgence. He spoke regarding a concern he had with the imbalance of minority population in the City's workforce including the Police and Fire Departments and with the same issue with the Easton Area School District. He said that he believed that the system to hire minorities was flawed in the City and the School District. He said that minorities lived in and paid taxes in the City but found it very difficult to find jobs that were run by tax dollars, and that he felt that if more minorities were made members on Authorities, Boards and Commissions they would apply for jobs.

Council members and Mr. Steckman spoke to Pastor Davis' concerns and Mayor Panto said that he would get Pastor Davis a list of vacancies on the Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

Salvatore Pugliese 2225 Hackett Ave. spoke to Council regarding the recent repaving project at 13<sup>th</sup> and Elm Street and also spoke regarding a parking ticket he had received in January 2014 for double parking while he was attempting to fix a furnace at one of his properties.

Mayor Panto asked if Mr. Pugliese had appealed the Parking Ticket which there is a process for.

Mr. Pugliese said that he had not and at this time it was too late.

Mr. Steckman said that he would meet with Mr. Pugliese on this matter.

Dr. Ruggles said that he had been at the location that Mr. Pugliese was concerned with and did not see any problems, but said that he would return to the 13<sup>th</sup> & Elm Street, when it was raining, to check on the pitch of the road for the perceived storm water drainage issue and trip hazard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p. m. on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk